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BUSINESS LETTERS: All business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Nebraska, and postage money orders to be made payable to the order of the company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas county, ss: George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of April, 1898, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies and Total. Rows include 1. 24,258, 2. 24,418, 3. 23,008, 4. 23,580, 5. 23,715, 6. 24,132, 7. 24,020, 8. 23,873, 9. 24,090, 10. 24,007, 11. 23,150, 12. 23,809, 13. 24,247, 14. 24,610, 15. 23,045.

Total 780,593. Less returns and unsold copies 17,420. Net total sales 763,173. Net daily average 25,639.

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Secretary to before me and subscribed in my presence this 30th day of April, 1898.

N. P. PEIL, Notary Public.

All quiet once more in company A, Third Nebraska militia.

The exposition postage stamps will stick when they get here.

For complete and accurate news of the exposition The Bee has no competitors.

Now let the weather man lay in a supply of good weather for the opening days of the exposition.

Like the Omaha gamblers, the South Omaha gamblers seem to have gone to the wrong parties for protection.

Patronize the want columns of The Bee. They bring the advertiser returns worth several times the money invested.

Owing to the unaccountable crossing of the wires it is not certain whether Admiral Cervera is a profound strategist or simply short of coal.

Unless all signs fail the Second district congressional nominating convention called for Saturday will be not only harmonious but unanimous.

Rain or shine the exposition gates will be opened June 1—and even if it is both rain and shine the exposition will be a thing of beauty either way.

Only men with lively imaginations are discussing the great war in which the United States and Great Britain are pitted against every other nation.

Some people right in Omaha will only wake up to the magnitude of the exposition about the time its close is in sight. Fortunately there are not many of this kind.

The necessity for an independent controller for the exposition still exists if business methods are to be pursued in handling the accounts of the great show.

It is needless to say that the men who are planning to store up sunshine and keep it for future use are not paid by the coal combine to exercise their ingenuity.

The credit of the United States is excellent, but its credit will be even better if the war can be conducted to a successful issue without borrowing money on bonds to pay expenses.

Hereafter all newspaper correspondents are entitled to be addressed as "colonel," since in the exchange of prisoners a Spanish colonel is given in exchange for one of the newsgatherers.

Great honor attaches to those who came forward on the first call for exposition contributions and even those who come to the front on the last call can yet share in the glory of the enterprise.

Where will the troops that respond to the second call be mustered in? At Omaha or Lincoln? Inasmuch as Lincoln captured the first mustering camp on a lull, Omaha ought to come in this time.

The prospect is that Memorial day exercises will be unpretentious this year, but that does not mean that the heroes of the last great war are to be crowded out of memory by the heroes of the pending war.

That popocratic congressman from Nebraska whose testimonial is being printed to advertise the new train service of one of the Chicago lines neglects to state whether he rode on a prepaid ticket or a free pass.

The cranker who tried to excuse himself from contributing to the exposition by asserting that the great show would never open its gates to the public has long ago crawled into his hole and pulled the hole in after him.

When Bismarck declared that his own views in regard to war are well understood and that he had "always held that war is defensible only after all other remedies have failed," the smile of those familiar with his war record encircled the whole world.

CUBAN CO-OPERATION.

Two of the officers of General Garcia's staff are in Washington to arrange a plan of co-operation between the insurgents and our military forces. These officers estimate the number of Cuban soldiers actually in the field at from 20,000 to 25,000, which is a considerable reduction from the figures that have been given out by officials of the junta in this country and it would doubtless be safe to cut down somewhat the lower figures of this latest estimate, for the tendency to exaggerate seems to be chronic with the Cubans. It is somewhat remarkable, if the insurgent forces are subjected to ordinary military regulations, that staff officers, sent on a most important mission, have to guess at their numbers. One would suppose that under such circumstances they would have been given exact information, so that our military authorities could know just what the value of the insurgent co-operation will be so far as the number of men is concerned. The fact that these staff officers of Garcia could give only estimates warrants distrust of their figures.

However, it is apparent that our military authorities are not counting upon the insurgents to be of very great assistance in the fighting that will be done in Cuba. Their knowledge of the country will be of value and they may be found useful in certain military operations, but there is no reason for any great confidence in their soldierly qualities. The fact is now pretty clearly established that the insurrection could not have been prolonged a great while, for undoubtedly the insurgent forces are as strong now as when war was declared and are quite as well off in all other respects. The policy of the government should be to invade Cuba with an army strong enough to drive out the Spaniards without regard to the co-operation of the Cubans.

CLEARING UP MEXICAN LAND GRANTS.

The supreme court of the United States in a decision recently rendered on a land title case from Arizona took into consideration some Mexican historical incidents of a half century ago and approved the regularity of one large international land deal. The land in controversy was granted by the state of Sonora to certain persons about the time of the famous Gadsden purchase in which it was included. After years of litigation the supreme court has decided that this grant from Sonora was illegal because the land in fact belonged to the republic of Mexico and the state could not have been considered as acting for the nation, because it was at that very time in a state of rebellion against the federal authority. It will thus be seen that the questions involved were of much more importance than the land claimed.

In this case the court of claims had decided in favor of the claimants of the grant, but the supreme court seems to have got down to the bottom and uncovered the basic principles, from which position settlement of many other controversies in regard to these old Mexican land grants will be easy. While the land deal which Mr. Gadsden fathered was decidedly unpopular in Mexico and not pleasing to all Americans it is now plain that Mexico thereby unloaded upon the United States a lot of land grant complications which have been dragging through our courts these many years. The Mexican system of disposing of land to favorites as rewards and not providing for getting the land into the hands of actual settlers has been a great obstacle to the progress of the territories carved out of former Mexican territory.

Now that these old land claims are being disposed of and there is a disposition on the part of congress to grant to the territories the land within their borders, as shown by the passage of the bill this week giving New Mexico a million acres of land, the work of transforming the southwestern deserts into garden spots on which thousands may make their homes will proceed much faster than in the past.

FRANCE AND THE PHILIPPINES.

The report of negotiations between France and Spain for the transfer of the Philippines to France appears to be taken seriously in Germany, where it is said to create much uneasiness. It is intimated that the German government would resist such transfer with all the diplomatic means at its disposal and undoubtedly in this it would have the support of Great Britain.

That Spain may be negotiating for the transfer of some one of its eastern colonial possessions to France for a pecuniary consideration is not improbable, but it is hardly to be supposed that France would under existing circumstances seriously consider a proposal to take the Philippines, even as a gift. In the first place it is a question whether Spain now has any right to dispose of these islands. It is true that the United States is not in full occupation, but we are in possession of and are effectively blockading the principal part of the Philippines and we are proceeding as rapidly as possible to comply with the requirements of international law in order to complete temporary title to the islands. The naval force at Manila is in undisputed control of the waters there and troops are being forwarded with all possible haste for the expulsion of the Spanish forces on land. It is known to the world to be the intention of this government to drive Spain out of the Philippines and take full possession of those islands while the war lasts. Any interference with this purpose by a neutral nation would be a distinct act of hostility.

Referring to the rumored negotiations, the New York Journal of Commerce says if such a purchase were attempted it would be without precedent in international law. "There is no case known to us," says that paper, "in which a neutral nation has attempted to purchase and take over from one belligerent territory actually blockaded or besieged by the other belligerent and about to fall into its hands. The analogies are all against the validity of such a transfer." We do not think it is to be seriously apprehended that France will attempt to make a precedent in this matter, knowing that the attempt would be resisted by the United States, with the certainty of having the support

of Great Britain and Germany, both of which powers would greatly prefer that the control of the Philippines should remain permanently with this country rather than pass into the hands of France. Perhaps even Russia could be counted upon to side with the United States in resisting such a transfer. If France desired to create a condition that would almost inevitably embroil Europe in war it could accomplish the object in no surer way than by an attempt at this time to take possession of the Philippines, but there is no reason to believe that France has any such desire. It is quite as anxious, there is no doubt, for the preservation of the peace of Europe as any other nation and it is earnestly disposed to maintain friendly relations with the United States, however strongly some of her people sympathize with Spain. It is safe to say that we are in no danger of losing the results of victory in the Philippines through any action on the part of France.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIANS.

The general assembly of the United Presbyterian church, in session in Omaha this week, deserves a cordial welcome from all classes of our citizens. The potency of the church as an important factor, not only for good morals, but for good government, is everywhere recognized and the high position which the United Presbyterians hold among the protestant denominations places them among the most influential church organizations. As a city of church going, law-respecting people, Omaha has reason to feel honored by the privilege of entertaining such a noteworthy gathering of churchmen.

While the United Presbyterian general assembly is in session in Omaha, the Transmississippi Exposition, every delegate will of course make a tour of inspection of the grounds and buildings and those who are able should remain over to participate in the opening exercises. The value of the exposition as a great educational agency should be appreciated and the fact emphasized that its object and that of the various church organizations fit in with one another. By bringing the moral aspects of the great enterprise to the fore just as it is in the point of formal inauguration, the delegates to the assembly cannot fail to accomplish good not only for their own church, but for the whole community that is interested in the exposition.

REED AND ANNEXATION.

The house republicans have deferred the proposed caucus on the question of Hawaiian annexation until next week and it is not certain that it will be held then. The attitude of Speaker Reed is somewhat disconcerting to the annexationists. There has been no recent expression from him on the subject, but it is not doubted that he is still opposed to annexation and its advocates fear that he will again thwart their efforts. They claim that they have a large majority for the joint resolution to annex Hawaii, but they are doubtful about being able to get it before the house, a matter which the speaker has largely in his control.

Firmness in adhering to his convictions is one of the strong characteristics of Thomas B. Reed. It is to be hoped that he will show it in this case and exert all the power and influence at his command to prevent the carrying out of a scheme for which the time and the conditions are peculiarly inauspicious. The success of the annexationists now would be especially damaging to our position before the world. It would be used, as we have heretofore pointed out, by our enemies abroad to justify their assumption that the real motive of the United States in going to war is territorial extension. There is not a single new argument for Hawaiian annexation. We have no more need of that territory today than we had a year ago. Whatever we want that can be had there we can obtain and we could do no more if the islands were ours. The Hawaiian annexation scheme is as reprehensible now as it has ever been. Speaker Reed will have the commendation of the best judgment of the country if he shall prevent its consummation.

A test case is to be made of an effort to supplant a deputy revenue collector in northern Iowa by another without observing the forms of law as required under the civil service rules. The deputy collector for the northwestern part of the state was summarily removed without charges and another appointed on recommendation of the congressman, entirely ignoring the civil service law. If it can be done there it can be done in any district of the nation, and if the civil service law can be ignored in the matter of deputy collectors of internal revenue it can be ignored almost anywhere. The deposed collector promises to test the matter at once.

Washington dispatches report that some members of congress are chafing under the restraint put upon congress by reason of the war, and members of the lower house especially are anxious to get away from the national capital. But they ought to bear with an enforced stay in Washington quite as cheerfully as the boys of the army of volunteers look forward to a summer in Cuba or the Philippines. It is just as essential that congress does its duty as that the men under arms stand firm for the right.

There has been marked progress in surgical science since the close of the last war, and the American soldiers who are wounded in battle will be better cared for and stand a better chance of recovery than their fathers who fell a third of a century ago.

The diving corps has gone to Key West to look for barnacles that are hindering the progress of the war. The cynical citizen naturally suggests that the divers ought to have been sent to Washington.

Touching a Tender Spot.

Buffalo Express.

The London editor who first called it "the Yanko-Spanko war" is too bright to be an Englishman.

Good Example for Dewey.

New York Sun.

General Merritt's gallant resolve that his return from Manila shall be celebrated by his readventure into matrimony is an example well worthy of duplication by Rear Admiral Dewey. But if the admiral should

at any time intimate that such was his intention American girls must not all speak at once.

Strike.

Washington Star. England and the United States might complicate matters by signing any formal documents, but there is nothing to prevent their shaking hands.

Pinching the Government.

Chicago Tribune.

If, as alleged, the Pacific steamship companies have been trying to hold up the government by demanding extortionate compensation for carrying soldiers to the Philippines, there would be ample justification for impressing their vessels into the service and afterwards fixing the compensation on a fair basis. The individual or corporation which in an emergency like the present, seeks to exact extortionate profits for any service is deserving of a severe rebuke.

They Are All Right.

Philadelphia Record.

Whatever may be the feeling of the German government and of the people of Germany with regard to the war between the United States and Spain, there is no question as to the attitude of the German-Americans. There are no more patriotic citizens in the United States than these. Not a few of them are exiles from their native land because of their love for free institutions, and while they do not forget the fatherland, they do not fail to remember the welcome extended to them and the liberty assured them in the land of their adoption.

The Second Mascot.

Minneapolis Journal.

The Second Nebraska at Chickamauga is enjoying what the boys of that regiment regard as a week in heaven. Mr. Bryan secured a fine specimen of an American eagle and caused it to be presented to the regiment. By some queer accident it fell to the lot of Company B to take charge of the bird. Now Company B happens to be composed almost altogether of republicans and the boys immediately named the mascot Bill McKinley, after the bill McKinley he will be known as he goes to the front with the boys from the "Boy Orators" state.

American Armor Plate.

London Standard.

It is not altogether satisfactory to find that the all-conquering American is not only producing as good armor as England, but producing it cheaper. Yet, according to a German naval periodical, the British firms of Vickers and Brown were underbitten by the American firms of Carnegie and Bethlehem and the British firm of Armstrong, a tender for the armor of two new Russian battleships. Both American firms were £5 per ton below the lowest British tender. There is an unpleasant monotony about these failures of Englishmen to hold their own in foreign contracts.

Bryan's Military Aspirations.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Mr. Bryan's excursion into the military field is not helping him politically, in the judgment of many of his party friends. It is not to be denied that the ability of the governor of Nebraska to raise a regiment, he was to be elected to the colonelcy by the vote of the regiment, and as a preliminary step he sought the captaincy of Company A. But opposition became so pronounced that he has withdrawn the subject from the high seas to the eventful appointments of untrained and inexperienced youths with "pull" to high military stations. Bryan's good sense appears for once to have deserted him. The situation is rather trying to his nerves and, for it is hardly surprising to his ambitions as it was some months ago.

Fighting Qualities of Volunteers.

Kansas City Star.

Lord Wolsey thinks that it would be a risky business to send untrained American volunteers against trained Spanish soldiers, and possibly his opinion would be shared by a majority of our own regular officers. They would be all the more in the wrong if their own knowledge of the military conditions of the American volunteer for acquiring the art of war in a short time, in fact, almost intuitively. It was an army of raw recruits that the general at Pakenham in New Orleans, than whom braver or better soldiers never marched. It was American volunteers, union and confederate, marching directly from their camps of muster and instruction to the battlefield, who fought each other with the most brilliant success. There is no disposition to undervalue drill, discipline and experience, and yet there is probably no American volunteer, even though he joined his command yesterday, who, with a good gun in his hands, does not consider himself more than a match for any Spanish soldier alive.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

General Merritt, at least, has an intention to make the Philippine business "short, sharp and decisive."

Congressman Sprague has made himself popular among the Massachusetts soldiers at Camp Alger by sending them 200 gallons of filtered water.

Since trouble with Spain arose the fact has come to public notice that Horatio J. Sprague has been United States consul at Gibraltar for fifty years.

Any unpleasantness between the United States and President Bismarck is confined to the journals of both countries, which are responsible for all there is of it.

Correspondents at the various seats of war freely admit that the sword is mightier than the pen. A blue pencil in the hands of a censor ruthlessly penetrates realms of fancy.

The cornerstone of the monument in Frederick, Md., to Francis Scott Key will be laid on flag day, June 1, by Thomas J. Shrock, grand master of Masons of the state of Maryland.

The chewing gum manufacturers have decided to make no protest against the proposed government tax on their product. But they have got something to chew on as well as their customers.

A trade journal says the demand for bugles has materially fallen off through the war, and the makers are wondering if the substitutes left behind by the volunteers lack the courage to take their buggy riding.

General Henry Bogota Jackson, who died in Savannah the other day, was a colonel in the Mexican war and a major general in the confederate army. He was minister to Austria under President Pierce and a helper in Mexico under Cleveland.

Lord Salisbury received a magnificent Persian rug during the jubilee festivities from Prince Amir Khan, of Persia. Experts who have recently examined the present pronounce it to be of the finest workmanship, and value it at about \$4,000.

In anticipation of future and in recognition of past services, a library in New York has been named Walter Sampson Schley Dewey Cullen, while Chicago, not to be outdone, declares the existence of a firm in that city named Sampson & Dewey.

John Nicholas Brown, who gave \$200,000 for a public library building in the city of Providence, a little more than a year ago, has recently increased this amount to nearly \$500,000, in order that the building may be placed in proper surroundings. The additional sum for the library is \$45,000, and it will enable the trustees to place a porch, entrance steps, a terrace and balustrade with insuring walls and other needed details around the library building proper.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The secondary elections in France—in a French district a candidate must get a majority over all and a second election with only two men running was needed in 181 seats—completed the choice of a new Chamber of Deputies for four years, unless its term was extended by its own act, as that of the chamber just closing was eighteen months ago. The last chamber had 64 members and the present has about the same. Of these sixteen are elected by the colonies and early returns are always deficient to the extent of several seats. The solid mass of the French chamber since Gambetta, nineteen years ago, had 363 members in its attack on President MacMahon has consisted of republicans. The aggregate of republicans has never since then been less than 400, and it has often exceeded this figure to the extent of several seats. The organized center of this mass of republicans, divided on various issues, consists of moderates or liberals. These men believe that the best politics is that which least disturbs business. The number of American voters who believe the same here would astonish the politicians if they were voted together; but they are too few to vote apart.

Next to these moderates are the radicals, the radical socialists and the socialist, each in the order named desiring more and more changes in the established order. Lastly there are those who do not believe in the republic. These in France are divided in two wings, those who, while they do not accept the republic, yet believe in it, and those who are still agitating for a monarchical restoration.

The Reply of the South African Republic.

London Standard.

The reply of the South African Republic to Mr. Chamberlain's dispatch is in effect a denial of the suzerainty of England. By a convention of October, 1881, the Volksraad explicitly recognized the Queen's control of the Transvaal's external relations. By a subsequent convention, in 1884, the Volksraad was understood to have substituted more indefinite, but the British control of the Transvaal's relations was not, in the British view, at all abandoned. In 1884, a radical government was in power in England, no interest was taken in the empire and there was a great deal of talk of "sloughing the colonies." The high tariffs levied on British goods in some colonies had created disgust in the mother country, and imperial sentiment was in one of its "cold fits." The Transvaal government asserts that it has a letter from Lord Derby, colonial secretary of the Gladstone's ministry in 1884, showing the intention of the government to abandon the suzerainty. As respects the Jameson raid, the republic's dispatch reiterates the charge that British authorities countenanced it. Claims are made for an indemnity and an assertion is made that the Transvaal is an independent state, to have the claim arbitrated. This is a slap in the face for England. President Kruger's speech at his recent inaugural was equally as positive and offensive. British rights, as asserted by the British government, are ignored, or, rather, flatly denied. Englishmen residing in the Transvaal are subjected to irritating disabilities. All this is very annoying to spirited Englishmen, and Lord Salisbury's supporters are becoming disgusted. When they ask, will England cease making concessions to the Transvaal, France and Russia?

An Effort to be Made to Suppress the Vendetta in Corsica.

London Standard.

An effort is to be made to suppress the vendetta in Corsica by enlisting the schools in the civilizing cause. Formal instructions have been given to the teachers in Corsica to enlighten the pupils in the schools and in classes of adults. The school director of the Normal school at Ajaccio, M. Fabre, has begun, in allusions to the student teachers, to explain the gravity of the question. In the popular mind the murderer frequently assumes the character of a hero; the bandits receive more sympathy and pity than their victims. It is the duty of the schoolmaster, it was spoken of as "examples of generosity and loyalty." Under these circumstances, M. Fabre's first, and perhaps most difficult, task is to enlighten the minds and consciences to the point of conceiving the vendetta to be an evil. Happily, his experience in the schools of the republic actually exerted in certain villages by brave and generous teachers have established in M. Fabre's own mind a firm belief in the practicality and ultimate effect of this new effort to uplift the Corsican character.

Macedonia has been for some years the theater of a strange political propaganda.

carried on by Greece and the Balkan states by means of schools. A correspondent of the London Times, writing from that country, says that, while the Greek schools still outnumber those of all other nationalities combined, they are losing ground. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, are working steadily and successfully, every year showing a notable accession to their schools. Within the last two years the Servians have made a sudden advance altogether disproportionate to their previous progress. Even the turbulent Albanian chiefs, for the most part at feud with one another, have united in a demand for the establishment of schools in which their own language shall be taught—a request, however, persistently refused by the Porte. The Mussulman peasant alone remains uninfluenced by the presence of the schoolmaster, in a state of primitive ignorance. The results of these schools and gymnasia upon which Bulgaria, Servia, Rumania and Greece expend about \$1,000,000 annually, are that "the Christian 'raya' of the past—ignorant, helpless, submissive—is disappearing, and a young generation, confident and hopeful, is springing up, which looks for help and sympathy beyond the bounds of Turkey, and has learned the fatal secret of the decadence of the Ottoman power." The contrast between the two sections of the population, the Christian and the Mussulman, is daily growing wider, "and in a brief space of time the maintenance of Turkish rule in Macedonia will become impossible."

Fatal Collision in Tennessee.

CHATTANOOGA, May 27.—A special from Oakdale, Tenn., says an engine collided with the Oakdale accommodation today at Grayville, north of Chattanooga, on the Cincinnati Southern railroad. A farm success, the engine, composed of Conductor Simpson, Engineer Haden, Fireman Edward and two brakemen, Matthews and Swanson, were all instantly killed, except Simpson, who is not expected to live. All reside at Somerset, Ky. Fireman Day and Baggage-master Dresslack of the accommodation train were seriously hurt.

Killed by the Cars.

RUTHE, Mont., May 27.—E. Bowen, while attempting to bid his brother goodbye on the departure of the troops for San Francisco, fell beneath the military train and was killed.

kilometers, is almost completed. On the next section, from Krasnoyarsk to the left bank of the Angara, 1,094 kilometers, the road is finished roughly for 342 kilometers, and travellers are conveyed by it. Further on, the rails are laid down for 405 kilometers to Toulouma, but the ballasting will not be finished before next year. Between Toulouma and the river Angara the embankments and all the bridges of wood are constructed, and it is hoped that about the end of August the railway will be running as far as Irkutsk, although passengers will have to change trains at the Yenisei and Obi, owing to the bridges over those rivers not being ready. It is hoped that before the end of next year the Irkutsk branch will be finished, together with the necessary landing stages and ferry boats on Lake Baikal, and finally, 62 per cent of the earthworks on the Transbaikalian section have been executed, and the rails to complete the section as far as Stratenka are ready, and can be placed in position for the opening of navigation on the Amur in 1899, when there will be an unbroken communication with Vladivostok. The railway in its present state is incapable of carrying trains at a more rapid rate than 25 kilometers an hour, whereas to meet the demands on the line a speed of 40 or 50 kilometers an hour is necessary. For this, heavy rails will have to be substituted for those in use, and stone bridges must be constructed in place of the existing wooden structures.

LOUISIANA'S NEW CONSTITUTION.

Louisiana's new constitution contains 45,000 words, insuring a prolonged job for the legislature.

Senator Justin Merrill, it is said, is now the oldest living English-speaking statesman, since the death of Gladstone.

The Louisville Courier-Journal nominated this ticket for 1900: For president, George Dewey of Vermont; for vice president, Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia.

The town of Hempstead, part of which is in and part of which is not in the city of New York, is the only town in the state to enjoy that singular distinction.

A postmaster in Ireland who recently celebrated his 114th birthday anniversary has held office for half a century. A fortune awaits his heirs if they market the secret of his "pull."

Governor Hastings of Pennsylvania is suffering from a fracture of his political spine. After promising his home county delegation to a certain aspirant for the republican nomination for governor the county turned out and elected a solid opposition delegate.

Robert W. Fielding, the first of a group of city officials who milked the treasury of Brooklyn, has been convicted and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. Fielding was a deputy commissioner of public works and his crime was the auditing of bogus accounts.

Up to January 1, 1898, the total cost of the construction of the New York canal from the date of opening was \$68,400,000, of which \$50,000,000, approximately, was expended upon the Erie canal. The Chesapeake and Ohio canal has cost \$1,000,000, and the Delaware and Hudson over \$6,000,000.

There will be an election for state treasurer, and for that office only, on the state ticket in Illinois this year, the tenure of the incumbent being two years, whereas the other state officers in Illinois are elected for a term of four years. The present treasurer has when chosen in 1896, a plurality of 116,000.

The sheriff of Allen county, Kentucky, besides attending to his official duties, buys and ships stock, operates a flour mill, is interested in and devotes a portion of his time to one of the largest mercantile houses in Louisville, conducts a farm success, and is the power behind the throne in other industries of minor importance.

Admiral Dewey, it is said, has never voted in a political election in his life, holding, as so many of the older men in the army and navy do, that an officer ought not to be so busy in studying his country, no matter who is in power, simply upholding the existing administration without comment or question.

The supreme court of Massachusetts declined to recognize free silver as the chief pillar of democracy. John H. Sheridan was appointed to represent the democratic party as registrar of voters at Walsley.

The silverites called attention to the fact that Sheridan was a gold democrat and objected to his appointment. The court says that all the members of either the democratic or republican party have never adhered to all of the same principles or supported all of the same candidates, and asserts that "the only test given in the particular statute now under consideration is that the registrar shall act with that one of the two leading political parties which he was appointed to represent. It is not required that he shall be recognized as in regular standing, or shall on all things act with the predominant party or division of that leading political party."

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Three Propositions Approved by One of the Two Branches of Congress.

Many joint resolutions proposing this or that amendment of the constitution are introduced at every session of congress. Rarely one gets beyond the committee to which it has been referred. Few go so far as passage by the house or the senate. The latest amendment of the constitution to be adopted and become law was ratified by the last state voting thereon more than twenty-eight years ago.

It is a somewhat curious circumstance that at the present time two important amendments affecting the machinery of our government have each accomplished the first stage of progress in one of the houses of congress and have crossed each other's path in going to the other house for concurrent action.

Within twenty-four hours the proposed amendment changing inauguration day from March 4 to May 1, and another proposing by two months the term of the administration and the life of the next congress, passed the senate and went to the house; and the proposed amendment for direct vote of the people passed the house and went to the senate. The first was adopted by the senate on May 11, and on May 11 it was referred to the house committee on the judiciary. The second was adopted by the house on May 11, and on May 12 it went to the senate committee on privileges and elections.

Both amendments have been fully and ardently discussed in the senate, and in which they respectively originated. When reported to the houses wherein concurrent action is required before going to the states for ratification they will be debated there. Yet public attention outside of congress has been drawn to a very limited degree to these most important proposed changes in the organic law. There could be no better illustration of the extent to which the interest of the people of the United States is now concentrated upon international affairs and foreign relations, particularly with Spain.